

Parks and Play Grounds-1938

Alabama

Birmingham, Ala. News
April 14, 1938

FUNDS ARE ASKED FOR NEGRO PARKS

adequate playgrounds are not yet furnished for Negro children, some means should be provided to take the children off the streets and from the alleys. Supervised playgrounds are the answer.

Improvements in a Negro park at Omega Street and Theta Avenue and at a park at East Thomas were asked by a group representing the Alabama State Federation of Colored Civic Leagues at the meeting of the Park Board yesterday.

The group asked that an area 100 feet square in the park be lighted with four flood lights for night games, that a platform be built in the park and that water and a rest room be provided at a nearby community center. Four or five additional workers were asked.

The group asked for a baseball diamond at the East Thomas playground. They also asked water, lights and two additional workers.

The Park Board voted to match funds raised by Negroes up to \$50 to provide balls, bats and other necessities for a Negro baseball league this Summer. The requests made by the committee will be investigated, board members said.

Birmingham, Ala. Appeal
May 4, 1938

Playgrounds For Negroes

Dr. A. M. Freeman, president of the Birmingham Protestant Pastor Union, has asked ministers in this community to help get playground work for Negro children in several sections of the city. He has suggested that they should take the lead in efforts to get space allotted for Negro children who soon will be out of school and who should have some place for wholesome, healthy recreation.

Dr. Freeman's suggestion is deserving of support from every white citizen in Birmingham who would help improve conditions in this city and who realizes that playgrounds, adequately supervised, are most helpful in building the best future citizens.

George Stuart, Jr., while a member of the Jefferson County solicitor's staff, made a thorough survey of the effects of playgrounds as a deterrent of crime. He found that in neighborhoods where supervised playgrounds were maintained child delinquency was at the lowest ebb.

Playgrounds need not be expensive. The physical equipment necessary to entertain children need not be costly. Children's tastes in entertainment are simple. Wholesome play, healthful exercise and intelligent leadership are the chief requirements for a successful playground.

In sections of Birmingham where

Talladega, Ala. Daily Home
May 20, 1938

WPA RECREATIONAL

PROGRAM FOR NEGROES

For the first time in the history of Talladega, the Negro citizens are enjoying a wholesale recreational program. The movement for community cooperation and welfare is under the auspices of the College-Community Extension. The first playground was opened Dec. 6, 1937. It was given by Talladega College and is just across from the Westside School. The equipment was given by interested white and Negro citizens. It has well served the children during school session. Plans are on way to further develop the playground in beauty and usefulness.

The First Congressional Church has given the use of its building for a community center. There the various club work is carried on; handicraft, sewing, gardening, home-work, leisure time, health, flower, beautification and music. Volunteer workers from the college and the community serve as leaders.

The Kindergarten Recreation Project is under the fine leadership of Odean Dixon, WPA worker. Daily a large number of children find themselves at the community house to enjoy the free play, organized play, story-hour and music. They have had several hikes to places of interest in the neighborhood. Friday they hiked to the top of College Hill where they enjoyed a grand picnic planned for them by their leader.

Each afternoon the boys and men gather in the college park for competitive and athletic type of games. Under the leadership of Frank Strickland, WPA worker, they are having plenty of fun. On Saturday his boys in their first game, defeated the Kindergarten team 11-9. More than 100 spectators witnessed the thrilling baseball game.

Since the closing of school the activities are increasing rapidly in number. Approximately 300 are touched daily by the activities.

The children and the community thank all who have helped to make such a program possible. Special thanks go to Mrs. Edna Miller, supervisor of recreation for Talladega, who is untiring in her interest and effort that all children may have the opportunity to

Montgomery, Ala. Advertiser
June 1, 1938

Playgrounds Opening With Fiesta Today

Formal Programs Will Launch Season At All Parks

A program of mass games, individual activities, and team competition followed by a community night will be held at all parks and playgrounds today inaugurating the third Summer of play direction by the Citizens' Recreation Council. Play leaders will be at each park to direct the play.

The program of play direction was designed to help the several thousand school children spend their leisure hours during the Summer. Sol Brinsfield, chairman of the committee, explained. "Play leaders help the child find wholesome pleasure in an organized play which has constructive character building effects," he said.

The program to be followed at the parks today will begin with registration of all participants and division into color teams. Instruction will be given for the mass games and then the play will be directed to individual activities. Original stunts will be organized by the players themselves. Musical games will be arranged to take place just before the relay races and the team competitions in softball and tennis. The community night for everyone will begin at 9. The membership of the recreation council is drawn from cooperating civic clubs and organizations. They are the P.-T. A., Ridge Crest Garden

Club, Business and Professional Women's Club, American Red Cross, Kiwanis Club, Y. W. C. A., Junior League, and American Legion Auxiliary.

Mrs. John Orme, supervisor of the recreation department, predicted that the use of playgrounds for organized play would be "of great advantage to the children of Montgomery."

The parks where white children will be directed in play and furnished equipment were possible are Yancey Park, Oak Park, Hamner Hall Park, Kiwanis Park, Perry Street Park, Herron Street Park, Chilton School Grounds, Chisholm Park, Children's Home, and Masonic Home.

Seven parks are under supervision for negro children: Loveless School grounds, Booker Washington School grounds, Billingslea School grounds, Hale School grounds, Day Street Playground No. 1, Day Street Playground No. 2, and Oak and Early playground.

A staff of 26 white workers and 16 negro workers are to direct the various phases of recreation at the parks.

Gadsden, Ala. Times
June 6, 1938

PLAYGROUNDS FOR NEGROES PLANNED

All persons interested in forming a civic league for the advancement of young colored people of Gadsden have been invited to meet at the Royal Palm Tuesday night at 8:30, Pauline Cain announced today.

Plans for establishing a playground will be discussed.

Anniston, Ala. Star
July 22, 1938

Negro Library In City

A happy instance of how the white and the colored people of Anniston cooperate in civic undertakings comes to light in the announcement that the long sought Negro library will officially open its doors during the first week of August. The library a month ago was only a movement by the Philathea Sunday School Class of the First Methodist Church, inspired by the unfailing hope of a former teacher, the late Mrs. Emmett Ledbetter. Today, owing to contributions from both races, the library is nearing its opening date.

The colored people of the city have donated the basement of the Congregational Methodist Church on West Fifteenth Street, and have done much already to prepare these quarters in a suitable manner for the library layout. A local Negro woman, Vester Stevens, has volunteered to serve as librarian, and, as far as we know, without the slightest idea of receiving any salary. On the other hand, the white people have done much to make the library possible. The City Council has voted a \$10 a month appropriation to help meet the expenses of the new library. Following a tea given by the Philathea Class several weeks ago over 500 books were contributed to the movement, and at the moment WPA workers are busy putting these books in shape for library usage. And finally, but certainly not least, have been the admirable efforts of the Philathea Class library committee and Miss Mildred Goodrich, Carnegie librarian, in making the Negro library movement more than what it has been for years—a good idea then unbacked by funds or books. This committee, composed of Mrs. Ernest Williams, chairman, Mrs. Fitzpatrick Booth, Philathea Class president, and Mrs. Fred Williams, has been indefatigable in its persistence toward the success of the library movement.

Of the matters that remain for Anniston people to do to insure further success for the local Negro library, undoubtedly the major one is a greater contribution of books. A total of 500 books, while an auspicious beginning, is by no means sufficiently large to make the library anything but a skeleton of what it must be if it is to permeate the colored population with virility and power. Surely, several times 500 books lie at this moment unused in attics and basements of Anniston homes. Nor can lack of transportation be an excuse for failure to contribute them, since Miss Mildred Goodrich herself has announced that she will guarantee their collection if she is notified. The Anniston Star urges all people in the city to make an effort toward insuring the success of the colored library.

Birmingham, Ala. News
August 6, 1938

A Public Swimming Pool And Play Center For Negroes

A few days ago Joe Young, a Negro, was drowned in the Cahaba River, where, with several companions, he had gone swimming. This tragedy was keenly felt among employees of *The News-Age-Herald*, for Joe Young was a janitor in this organization. He was well liked, for Joe was a capable, reliable worker and a good man.

Joe was said to be a good swimmer, but in some way he got into difficulties in the treacherous stream, as many another person has. Rivers are not the safest places for swimming, with their strong currents and their dangerous whirls and eddies, except at spots which have been improved for public bathing and have the protection of life-guards. Yet Negroes around Birmingham, when they want to swim, must go to unpropitious places because they have no public swimming pool. And many a Birmingham Negro has been drowned as Joe Young was.

Coming so close home to us, this tragedy set a train of thought in motion among some of us in this organization. We wondered if it would not be possible to provide a public swimming pool for Negroes, where they could go—adults and children alike—to swim in safety. Negroes, no less than white people, enjoy swimming, and in the hot Summer time they like to cool their bodies with a good dip.

Perhaps not many persons in Birmingham have ever thought of the need for a public swimming pool for Negroes. Frankly, we ourselves had not thought of this particular need before, though we have given thought to the question of recreational facilities for Negroes, and more than once have written editorials in that connection. After all, Negroes enjoy so few privileges and need so many things that it is hard to think of all their needs.

Certainly, however, on the score of recreational facilities for Negroes, a public swimming pool for them would be one of the most desirable accommodations. There are two or three playgrounds in the city set aside for the use of Negroes, though with possibly one exception they are not improved playgrounds. But nowhere is there a public swimming pool for their use.

Anyone who will think about this question a little will realize that it is important from a sociological standpoint as well as from the standpoint of pleasure to Negroes. For it is well known that recreational facilities help a great deal to prevent tendencies toward mischief and crime, particularly among children. That fact has been recognized in

the establishment of playgrounds and swimming pools for the white population. The need for such facilities is no less for the Negro population, and the good they would do would be just as great.

While we were thinking of the desirability of a Negro public swimming pool, there came to our notice, by coincidence, accounts of a movement in that very direction in another Southern city, Richmond. Since, as we learned, the matter had been up for discussion in Richmond for many years, it is estimated in Richmond's experience with it.

The Richmond Common Council only last Monday voted, by 18 to 1, to set aside an 18-acre tract for a Negro swimming pool and recreation center; and the swimming pool is the most important item in the plans.

The Richmond newspapers heartily favor the plan. Commenting on it before the Common Council acted, *The News Leader*, anticipating a favorable vote, said: "We hope that these optimistic predictions will be borne out and that the action of Common Council tonight will be unanimous. It will be if it conforms to the wishes of an indisputable majority of Richmonders. Recent weeks have witnessed that rare phenomenon in city life, the crystallization of a positive sentiment for an improvement that had been opposed by a minority. As a rule, the organized minority can prevail. This time, the majority, without organization, became vocal and insistent."

The News Leader thought that this was not solely because of the frequent appeals of the Juvenile Court and the welfare agencies for a playground that would keep Negro boys and girls off the street and out of the way of temptation, or because of "humiliation over long and inconsiderate delays in providing a swimming pool." Instead, the paper was happy to think that the community's sense of justice was prevailing. "The average high-minded Richmonder," it said, "has seen the happy throng in Shields Lake and at the Byrd Park Field, and then he has looked at the Negro children who crowd narrow streets and shabby, vacant lots, and he has said to himself, 'How can we have peace between the races; how can we pretend to justice, when we do so much for the white children and do nothing for Negro boys and girls who desire and need recreation precisely as our children?' This, it seems to us, is the state of mind to which Richmond has come. If the council recognizes it tonight, this will be an historic date in race relationship. From justice comes peace. How else can it come?"

After the council's action, *The News Leader* said: "Common Council deserves the thanks of a grateful city today. . . .

"This playground measure was the most important paper that has been before the council for many years."

The Times-Dispatch, viewing the action as a step toward better citizenship, said:

"Those who are inclined to stress the high criminal rate among Negroes, and to cite it as evidence that there is something inherently anti-social about the race, fail to consider that the whites would have a similar record if they enjoyed as few recreational outlets. No people can be expected to remain relatively free from crime as long as thousands of its citizens are crowded into unsanitary living quarters and given only back alleys and unpaved streets to play in." *The Times-Dispatch* believes the project will "pay dividends in lower criminal costs, as well as in the more intangible realm where a healthier and better-trained Negro citizenship dwells."

Birmingham needs the same sort of thing. Whether financial conditions now would permit the city to embark on such a project is a question, though the possible availability of PWA funds for such a purpose might be considered. Whether we can do such a thing now or not, Birmingham should begin now to plan for an adequate swimming pool and recreation center for Negroes.

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Birmingham, Ala. News
August 28, 1938

A Swimming Pool And Play Center For Negroes

Attention is invited to a fine letter appearing in the "Voice of the People" column on this page from Mr. E. M. Elliott, who writes with regard to the suggestion recently made in these columns for a public swimming pool and play center for the Negroes of Birmingham. Mr. Elliott heartily approves. He thinks the suggestion merits a more hearty response than he has seen in the "Voice of the People." As for the response, many letters have been received on this subject, both from white persons and from Negroes, and while they have not been published in full, excerpts from some of them were quoted in an editorial.

Mr. Elliott's response is especially heartening. He is well known as a citizen who has been an outstanding public benefactor of Birmingham. He says that before his financial reverses in the depression, it was his purpose to sponsor just such a recreational project for Negroes. Even now he says: "In my limited way the project may count upon my hearty cooperation."

There must be many men like Mr. Elliott in Birmingham who would cooperate in a plan to provide a swimming pool and play center for Negroes. Their means and time and effort would be well spent if they did. Few public benefactions would pay greater dividends than this one would in terms of better citizenship, happier lives for a large element of our population, and stronger friendship between the races. If recreational facilities are essential to the social welfare of white people, they are no less essential in the case of Negroes.

Demopolis, Ala., Times
August 25, 1938

Recreation Park For Negroes Now Enjoyed By Many

A project started more than a year ago by Mrs. Sallie Will Duffield, recreation supervisor of Marengo County, and carried on through the efforts of the colored recreation council of Demopolis, composed of Allen Lane, Lettie Weiss, Juanita Coleman, Alfred Black and Maud Hayden, with the assistance of Irving Bell, Lillian

Phillips, the City of Demopolis and many others, is at last completed and is now being patronized by many colored citizens of Demopolis.

Located on the site of the old Black Belt School, on East Washington Street, the park is on the property owned by the negroes of Demopolis, bequeathed to them many years ago. Swings, trapeze bars, ping pong sets and many other recreational facilities are available, and under the supervision of Resetta Jackson and Marion Weiss, recreation leaders, who supervise play, already the

negroes are taking advantage of this park.

Opening exercises were held last Monday night, when many white visitors were present to hear the program. Capt. T. C. Reid, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, was a speaker. W. B. Hill, county agent for negroes of Marengo,

made a splendid talk. A feature of the program was the music given by several church choirs, under the direction of Maud Hayden. The program concluded with boxing matches, refereed by Lewis Hill.

Birmingham, Ala. News
September 5, 1938

Voice of the People

Expressions from readers upon topics of current or general interest are welcomed. Writing should be on one side of the paper only and should not exceed 300 words. Anonymous communications will not be printed and letters unaccompanied by self-addressed, stamped envelope will not be returned. The News reserves the right to shorten letters of excessive length.

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FOR NEGROES

To the Editor The News:

We, the Negro citizens of Ensley, through the Ensley Civic League, take this means of expressing our appreciation for the wonderful editorial appearing in The Birmingham News Aug. 6, "A Public Swimming Pool and Play Center for Negroes." We appreciated very much the stand taken by your great paper on a much-needed project such as this one and many other editorials that have appeared from time to time on recreational facilities for Negroes.

A public swimming pool and play center for Negroes would be one of the greatest steps that could be made in the direction of better racial relationship in our great city. We are aware of

Alabama.

the fact, as it was stated in the editorial, that we Negroes enjoy so few privileges and need so many things that it is hard for anyone who is not in sympathy with the Negro to think of all of his needs. After all, it takes love, necessity or death to make the classes who are living above want, and have at their command the recreational and civic facilities that are necessary for their pleasure and health, to see and sympathize with the masses who are destitute of the recreational facilities that are essential to good health and good citizenship, especially the Negro, who is a victim of conditional circumstances.

In addition to lack of a public swimming pool and recreational facilities for Negroes there are many other things which make a high contribution to the high death rate among Negroes. Here we might mention a few: Unimproved streets, poor drainage and sanitary sewage, street lights, and housing conditions in Negro sections in general.

It is true that the death rate among Negroes is very high. The same would be true of any other people if they had to live under similar conditions. We realize that there is too much killing among ourselves. We also realize that overcrowded housing conditions in Negro sections and unimproved streets with improper lighting facilities make a hotbed for crime; not only crime committed by the Negro himself, but because of such environments people who are of a criminal nature, whether they be Negroes or some other people, will seek these places to commit crimes themselves, or to plant the seed of discord among Negroes to the extent that it will contribute largely to their homicidal death rate. In other words, to decrease these conditions it simply means to decrease the death rate among Negroes.

We believe that when it comes to contagious diseases, such as smallpox, typhoid fever and tuberculosis, it is practically impossible for the Negro to be immune from them, being in such close contact and having so many things in common that it is possible for such disease germs to be carried from one house to the other.

We have from time to time called the attention of the City Commission to some of these conditions. Sometimes we have gotten results, but in most cases we believe that the delay has been too long, especially on things that are detrimental to good health.

The accomplishment of the things mentioned in this letter are some of the things that the Civic League has for its goal. We believe that they are essential to good health and good citizenship. Therefore we would appreciate very much if you think well of them to advocate them from time to time in your great paper.

THE ENSLEY COLORED CIVIC LEAGUE.
D. Scurlock, President.

STATE PARK FOR NEGROES PLANNED

A state park for Negroes will be laid out on 350 acres of land leased Thursday in the Chickamauga reservoir area of the Tennessee State Department of Conservation. It was announced by the Tennessee Valley

The tract is located on the northern shore of the proposed Chickamauga Lake about eight miles from Chattanooga near the village of Bartlesburg. The TVA contributes the use of the land on certain stated conditions, subject to requirements for preservation purposes. For a 15-year period, the lease being automatically renewable. Construction will be done by CCC workers under supervision of the National Park Service.

Miami Fla. Herald
December 10, 1938

Beach For Colored Folks

Editor The Herald: In this land where all men are supposed to be born "free and equal" and where, in America's Winter Playground, the people of all other races, many of them extremely uncouth and considered very undesirable, can come down here to enjoy privileges for health and pleasure, it is an outrage that the colored people must ride all the way to Fort Lauderdale, 30 miles, to bathe on a beach. Few of them can go and have to be content with the bath tub or little or no bathing at all. They need to keep clean and have pleasure the same as the rest of us. They reside here the year around and most of them work hard for what little they get.

Robert Ripley, in his "Believe It Or Not" nation-wide broadcasts has commented on the incredulous, un-American restrictions of the colored people here. A bathing beach of only a few hundred feet could easily be provided, north or south of Miami Beach. We "white folks" owe it to ourselves to help the 55,000 colored people living in our midst to improve and progress for health and cleanliness as much as for the ample provision for compulsory education in colored public schools.

WARDE TRAVER,
Miami Beach.

Parks and Play Grounds - 1938

Florida

Tampa, Fla., Times
February 19, 1938

Mayor Chancey's Excellent Playground Proposal

Mayor Chancey's proposal of a long-range plan to increase the City's playground facilities as a means of combating juvenile delinquency is excellent. He made it after City Recreation Department officials had pointed out how delinquency has been reduced in areas where new playgrounds have been provided.

The plan should fit right in with future WPA projects sponsored by the City. The Mayor has said that the City must select those which do not require a very heavy cash contribution locally for expensive materials and equipment. The clearing of playgrounds would require labor, which the WPA furnishes.

At least one of these projects might well be a playground in the most heavily populated Negro section that does not now have adequate facilities. The County Commissioners have wisely agreed to provide a farm home for Negro juvenile delinquents, and it would be even more economical to provide playgrounds to prevent delinquency.

Jacksonville Times-Union
May 21, 1938

Protests Are Made Against Negro Center

Objections Voiced to Site on Oceanfront Close to the Jetties.

Protests against plans which, it was announced, have been made to create a negro recreation center along the ocean front between Seminole Beach and the jetties yesterday were filed with the Duval Board of County Commissioners.

Speaking for the commission, Chairman Ralph T. Gray told the protesting delegation that the of-

ficial group would lend its aid in every possible legal way. Previously Assistant County Attorney Walter Arnold said that the board had jurisdiction as to the use of the beach proper but could take no action insofar as private property is concerned.

W. P. Chambers informed the commission that the last of the Manhattan Beach (former negro resort center) buildings was burned Thursday night and that the transfer of operations was now contemplated toward the north. He questioned if the value of the jet-ties as a tourist attraction would not be "ruined" by the new establishments and also spoke of the danger of automobile driving hazards.

H. C. Steele said he had been informed a negro hotel would be opened there and he also mentioned the possibilities of traffic hazards. George A. Carroll said he had been informed the property had been leased by white amusement operators and that they planned the establishment of buildings. Carroll suggested the possible need for substitute injunction proceedings.

The matter was referred to Attorney Julian E. Fant for a determination of the commission's legal rights.

Clearwater, Fla. Sun
May 24, 1938

City Selects Site For Negro Athletic Field

City commissioners last night authorized construction of a temporary playground for negroes on a section of city property adjoining Palmetto Avenue and the recreation board was instructed to start immediately preparation of the ground for a softball diamond. They also agreed to apply to the Federal government for a negro recreational project to be established on a 20-acre tract of city property northeast of Green Field.

Ready in Month

Frank Booth, member of the recreation board, said the diamond

week was not their fault and it use the field again.

"Well, whose fault was it," Commissioner Herbert Grice asked?

"It was caused by white people," Mr. Orcutt answered. "White people have been going out to watch the games. Some white people were in the stands on the night of the demonstration."

"How did that cause the trouble?" Mr. Grice asked.

"Some white people didn't like it because they don't believe negroes should play on the same field that white people use."

"I don't agree with that statement," Mr. Grice said.

Crime Reduced

Mr. Orcutt, deploring the incident that caused the recreation board to suspend temporarily negro recreational activities, said city statistics showed that since the recreational program for negroes had gone into effect, crime by this race had been reduced 30 percent.

He urged that something be done immediately to re-establish the recreational program.

The discussion was the outgrowth of a demonstration last week by about 200 masked Ku Klux Klansmen who broke up a negro ball game at Green Field and warned the negroes not to

could be made ready for use in three or four weeks. A \$200 fund for negro recreation will be used for making the clay diamond.

The authorization was given after a long discussion in which the incidents leading up to the demonstration by the Ku Klux Klan against negroes last week were aired. The recreation board was present, headed by Raymond Orcutt, chairman; Mr. Booth and R. B. Var Fleet, recreational director.

"Negroes did not cause the trouble last week," Mr. Orcutt said. "As far as colored people are concerned we have had no trouble. The demonstration last

ABBETT REPLIES TO FIRE CHIEF

L. G. Abbett, chairman of the civil service board, replied to remarks made by Fire Chief Luke Martin at a recent meeting that he thought he had too many bosses, implying that the civil service board had attempted to boss him. Mr. Abbett said the board had never tried to boss the chief and had sent him only two letters making suggestions.

"And as to Mr. Martin's statement that he did not need an additional fireman, it was only on his recommendation that I came up to ask for another fireman," he said.

Police Sgt. Guy Holloway, Fireman John Meadows and Raymond Lee, other members of the board, were present.

G. Add Stagg, real estate operator, complained to the commission about "odors caused by the Venetian blind factory" near North Ft. Harrison Avenue and Eldridge Street. The board referred the complaint to the zoning board to determine whether or not the zoning ordinance is being violated by the factory.

PROJECTS FOR WPA ARE APPROVED

The board last night approved plans for a number of projects to be submitted to the WPA and PWA. Chief among them is development of a yacht basin at the foot of the city pier on the east side of the bay. Authorization was given for City Engineer Leo Butler to go to Jacksonville this week to confer with engineers concerning the cost of building boat slips.

City Manager A. C. Nichols said tentative plans call for 110 boat slips. One engineer, he said, estimated the cost at \$60,000. But commissioners expressed the belief the slips would cost considerably more than that.

Approved supplemental projects for widening a number of city streets, including parts of Turner and Drew Street and part of Osceola Avenue; for completion of the Woman's Club kitchen and dining room; roofs for stands on

Green Field; for installation of automatic safety gates on the causeway draw bridge.

Commissioner R. L. Baker asked A. C. Nichols, city manager, if operation of the stop-and-go light at the intersection of Cleveland Street and Osceola Avenue could be suspended on week days. "I don't think summer traffic justifies a light here on week days," he said.

Sanford, Fla. Herald
May 23, 1938

TO BUILD NEGRO PARK
CLEARWATER. —(A)— City Commissioners plan construction of a recreation park for exclusive use of negroes. A band of men in Ku Klux Klan regalia recently halted a negro softball game at Green Field and ordered the players and spectators to leave. Recreation officials said the negro recreation program had proved of great value but they believed separate facilities should be provided for them.

St. Petersburg, Fla., Times
July 8, 1938

SOUTH SIDERS OPPOSE SPORTS CENTER PLANS

Group Also Protests Negro Bath Houses

Indignation ran riot at a specially called meeting of the South Side Improvement Association yesterday over plans for building a sports center in Waterfront Park and for building negro bath houses on the South Mole.

As the outcome, more than 50 members drew up a resolution against these projects and will submit it to the City Council this morning.

Maintaining they have been studying the situation for several months, South Siders say in the resolution, "Whereas, in this survey it has been disclosed that the promoters of many of the plans for the further mutilation of our waterfront and the parks on the

South Side are living elsewhere than in the area to be affected.

"Therefore, be it resolved . . . that the Hon. Mayor Vernon Agee and the City Councilmen of the city of St. Petersburg be earnestly petitioned not to permit the erection of a negro bath house on the South Mole or the erection of buildings or extension of ball parks in our Waterfront Park."

William Knighton, president of the Improvement Association, referred to the question as an "old fight of property owners of the South Side." He led with, "All want to give them (the negroes) something they do not want themselves. What generous givers are these who want to do things for the negroes."

He urged a place on the Gulf or Boca Ciega Bay be provided for negro bathing.

On the South Side Committee were Mrs. M. P. Hoback, Mrs. Clara Fulmer and Mrs. J. M. Biser. The president urged them to make "every effort" to settle the matter peaceably and to see that negroes get "some place out on the Gulf beach" where they can swim.

St. Petersburg, Fla. Times
August 1, 1938

HAMILTON URGES ESTABLISHMENT OF NEGRO BEACH Flays 'Prejudices' at Union Services

Flaying "racial prejudices that are tearing the world today," the Rev. J. Wallace Hamilton, speaking at Union Church services last night, pleaded not for equality but for "simple justice" when he urged Christian people to give negroes a bathing beach.

"With 45 miles of beach, surely we can find some place for the 11,000 negroes in our city," he said, adding that "some of the opposition comes from people in the Church."

Services last night were held in First Methodist Church instead of Williams Park and most of the downstairs pews were filled to capacity. The Rev. Mr. Hamilton, pastor of Pasadena Community Church, referred to the negro and other current questions because the Bible character, Nicodemus, who entered into his sermon "was our contemporary and, like ourselves, seeking solutions to problems of

the day."

Many of the problems could be solved better with Christian idealism, he inferred, as he preached against the "paganism arising in our modern lives."

He tried to visualize God in our city life, asking if God would symbolize love if He sat on the school board and apportioned less money for negro than for white education; if He led in public affairs and gave all the bathing beaches to the white people and none to the negroes. Christians, he emphasized, cannot follow Christ with prejudice in their hearts, and, he added, "social changes can be brought about only by people with the Kingdom of God in their hearts."

W. G. Coxhead, Y. M. C. A. secretary, presided last night and music was furnished by Childs Park Methodist Church under Mrs. W. A. Moser's direction and with Steele W. Roberts at the piano. Ushers were from the Y. M. C. A.

Services will be held again next Sunday night under the auspices of the Ministerial Association. They will be held in Williams Park unless inclement weather, as last night, forces a change to First Methodist Church, South.

Daytona Beach, Fla. News
August 28, 1938

SWIM POOL FOR NEGROES DONE BY LABOR DAY Then NYA Will Start Another and Demolish Old Waterworks

This city's negro swimming pool an NYA project on South Campbell street at the intersection of Live Oak avenue, will be complete and ready for use by Labor day. J. L. Payne, NYA area supervisor, announced last night.

As soon as the pool project is completed the workers will be transferred to the city waterworks yard just west of the F. E. C. depot to begin demolishing the old reservoirs. Materials from these will be used in the construction of a second swimming pool for negroes on the Cypress street playground, Payne said last night.

The nearly completed pool is one of three NYA projects that have afforded employment for young men of 18 to 25 years old during

the past two years. The first was a reception hall and cafeteria with kitchen attached on the Bethune-Cookman college campus, which has become the center for many social affairs among faculty members and students the past school year. The building is of cypress logs taken from swamps by local negro boys. Creaks between the logs are filled with concrete, making the building air tight and comfortable both in winter and summer. A large coquina rock fireplace and roomy porches are included.

The NYA also erected the Holly Hill state curb market only a few months ago from materials brought here from Camp Roosevelt near Ocala. While it is a temporary building it has served amply this summer for growers throughout this section to dispose of their products each Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. By another year a substantial market building, largely of coquina rock, a WPA project, will be available for this market.

The negro swimming pool is of reinforced concrete and has been constructed by local negro boys, who otherwise would have been out of work. The project was started last November with 14 boys on the job. As work progressed the number of workers was increased to 35. Leon Robinson was foreman. White labor was in charge of the carpenter work, of making forms.

Seven tons of steel for reinforcements and more than 27 tons of cement were required for this pool, which is 30 feet wide and 60 feet long. An addition of six feet to the west has been made for small children to wade in. Water in it will not be over 18 inches deep. The main pool is four feet above the general level of the ground in that section to secure proper drainage. It provides for nine and a half feet of water in one end and three feet at the other. Near the top of the pool is a scum gutter extending along all sides as an overflow. Water from the pool is from a large independent well driven nearby and water runs through a filter to soften it to some extent.

By means of drains the pool can be emptied and cleaned on short notice. As soon as it is ready for use it will be available to all negroes of the community free of charge and an experienced negro lifeguard will be on duty.

A nine foot concrete walk has been laid on all sides of the pool and two flights of concrete steps are being made. At the foot of one will be an eight inch medicated foot pool which bathers will be required to pass through before and after swimming to prevent spread of athlete's foot. Showers are being provided along the north side near the entrance.

Recently the NYA has added a recreation hall just in front of the

pool where gym work and other forms of exercises are carried on from time to time.

Delray Beach, Fla. News
August 26, 1938

Sum of \$7,500 For Negro Park

The negro recreational park project has been approved at the Jacksonville office of the WPA, Howard Cromer city engineer, reported yesterday. The application for the park has already been forwarded to Washington, where it awaits final approval.

The application, which is for \$7,500, includes plans for the erection of a log shelter, the laying of two tennis courts and the preparation of a field for horseshoes, croquet and diamond ball. The park is to be located diagonally across from the recreation park now used by the white people.

According to those who are well informed upon the subject, the project will receive final approval because people in Northern offices are especially anxious to aid the Southern negroes in bettering their living conditions.

Daytona Beach, Fla. News
September 5, 1938

NEGROES AT LAST HAVE REAL PLACE TO GO SWIMMING

For the first time in the city's history, negroes today had a real place to go swimming.

A new swimming pool, product of NYA labor with materials financed by the city, was to be opened at 5 o'clock this afternoon at the Campbell street negro park. A lifeguard was on duty this morning, but swimming was not to be allowed until 5 o'clock because of negro Labor day program at the Cypress street park.

Heretofore the only negro swimming that was permitted was in various fresh water canals or ponds of questionable sanitation, and on remote sections of the beach. Another new pool is to be constructed at the Cypress street park.

St. Augustine, Fla. Record
November 29, 1938

Well-Equipped Playground For Negroes Sought

City Commissioners Approve Applying for WPA Project

A playground with complete, modern facilities is in prospect for

the colored people of this community.

Presenting preliminary plans to the city commission last night, Project Commissioner C. S. Smith was authorized to apply for a WPA project to improve grounds on Central Avenue recently purchased from Mrs. Amelia McL. Hardin.

Although the cost cannot be estimated until the project is authorized and the city's share figured, the present plans call for a band stand, general recreation building and rest rooms of coquina rock. There will be paved walks, a tennis court, shuffle boards and a croquet

The entire grounds will be enclosed in a steel wire fence.

The grounds on Central Avenue have been operated as a colored recreation park for the past two years without many facilities.

Daytona Beach, Fla. News
November 18, 1938

ANOTHER SWIMMING POOL FOR NEGROES

Work has been started by the NYA on another new swimming pool for negroes, City Engineer W. J. Wier said today. This one will be at the Cypress street negro recreation park. One already completed is at the Campbell street park.

The second pool will be 80 by 40 feet with a six-foot wading pool at the shallow end. The first one was only 60 by 25 and often is overcrowded.

Artesian water will fill the Cypress street pool with 143,286 gallons of water which will be chlorinated as it enters the pool. Little excavation will be required for this pool as it is to be located in an old marl pit. It will drain into Halifax Drainage canal.

Parks and Play Grounds - 1938

Georgia
6

Negro Recreation Group Organizes

ATLANTA, Jan. 11 (AP) - A petition filed today in Fulton Superior court asked the incorporation of the general committee on recreation and camping for Negro youths in Georgia.

The organization is to be non-profit making and will receive gifts and endowments to be used in the building of Negro recreation centers and camps throughout the state.

The petition stated the corporation's objective as the "advancement of educational, social, physical and moral welfare of Negro youths in Georgia."

Cedartown, Ga., Standard
April 21, 1938

Funds Secured For Negro Park In Cedartown

Swimming pool and recreation-al park for Cedartown's colored citizens, a project that has been underway for almost two years, became a virtual certainty this week as final pledges on the \$1,600 total local funds were secured. Col. C. C. Bunn, trustee, has notified those who have made pledges to send checks to F. H. Brewster, treasurer, and final details of the project are being completed as rapidly as possible.

The swimming pool and park project has been sponsored by a group of Negro citizens who have already secured deeds to needed land and who have raised a considerable part of the cash sum required. The entire project will cost approximately \$4,000 with WPA funds available to supplement the \$1,600 of local money.

Plans are to complete preliminary details and start actual work on the project as rapidly as possible so that it may be in use this summer.

Atlanta Ga. Georgian
October 30, 1938

WPA to Conduct Play Centers At Schools

Community centers will be opened in Atlanta schools and housing projects next week under the sponsorship of the Works Progress Administration Recreation Division, it was announced Saturday.

Centers will be held at Techwood and at Maddox and Joe E. Brown Junior High Schools, and James L. Key and John B. Gordon elementary schools. Negro centers will be operated at University Homes, David T. Howard, Booker T. Washington and E. P. Johnson Schools. The centers will be open two nights a week.

The following playgrounds will be open in the afternoons, under the supervision of recreation directors:

Piedmont Park, Calhoun School, Moreland School, Morningside School, Techwood, Goldsmith School, Maddox Park, Mozley Park, J. Allen Couch School, John B. Gordon School, Bessie Branch Park, James L. Key School, Fair Street School, Joe E. Brown School, Howard Park, Adair Park, and Georgia Avenue School.

Negro playgrounds will be open at David T. Howard School, Old Morris Brown, Grey Street School, E. A. Ware School, E. P. Johnson School, South Atlanta School, W. H. Croghan School and University Homes.

Macon Ga. News
December 12, 1938

CABINS PLANNED AT NEGRO CENTER

Negro Playground to Be Improved Under WPA Co-operative Program

The playground and recreation department of the city of Macon has received authorization to build five or six log cabins on the Negro play-

ground center beyond Central City Park.

Under WPA co-operative effort a community center has already been built, and has been used by different groups of girls during the summer.

Mrs. Beggs Co-operates

Mrs. George Beggs, playground supervisor, who has been co-operating in the effort, hopes to be able to construct as many as six cabins for housing small over-night or weekend activities.

Word of approval of the project has been received from Carl Vinson, representatives from the Sixth district who announced that \$3,094 has been allotted for the work to include log cabins with wire screening, fencing, privies and appurtenance work.

TVA Leases 350 Acres For Negro State Park

The lease of 350 acres of land in the Chickamauga reservoir area to the Tennessee state department of conservation for development as a state park for negroes was announced last week by the Tennessee Valley Authority.

The tract is located on the southern shore of the proposed Chickamauga lake, about eight miles from Chattanooga, near the village of Bartlebaugh. It will be near the new parkway leading from Chattanooga to the new Harrison Bay state park.

Establishment of the new park near Bartlebaugh was recommended by the Hamilton county regional planning commission, the Chattanooga Chamber of Commerce, the Hamilton county court, and other local groups. The authority contributes the use of the land, on certain stated conditions, subject to requirements for reservoir purposes, for a fifteen-year period, the lease being automatically renewable. TVA will also co-operate in the development of plans for the park. The Tennessee state department of conservation will assume the maintenance.

The construction necessary to development will be done by the CCC under the supervision of the national park service. The 350-acre tract includes within its bounds two hills with an attractive cove between. It is proposed to provide areas for picnicking and facilities for boating and other

lake front activities. It is expected that work will begin some time before spring.

The authority also announced a license agreement with the Tennessee state department of conservation granting exclusive fishing, boating and swimming privileges to the state for the Cove Lake state park in the Norris reservoir area. This agreement is an extension of the authority's former lease agreement, which covered only use of the authority's land surrounding Cove Lake.

Appoint Firms to Design South Park Gardens CENTER PLANS TO EXPAND ACTIVITY

ROCKFORD (ILL.) STAR
WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 19 1938

The Chicago Housing Authority announced this morning, the appointment of the architectural firm of Thielbar and Fugard, 520 North Michigan avenue, as the design of the ten million dollar South Park Gardens Low Rent Housing Project. This firm replaces the firm of McCarthy, Smith and Tappin, who resigned May 24.

The firms of Shaw, Naess and Murphy, and Nimmmons Carr and Wright, was appointed last January.

Frederick J. Thielbar was appointed by Mayor Kelly, in 1935, to serve as chairman of the Citizens' committee on the Revision of the Chicago Building Ordinances. The work of this committee has been practically completed with the passage of a major part of the ordinance this summer. Mr. Thielbar is a member of the American Institute of Architects, a graduate of the University of Illinois, and was for many years with the firm of Holibird and Roche. He is a trustee of Northwestern university, and president of Wesley Memorial hospital.

John R. Fugard is former chairman of the Chicago Housing Authority, a post which he held until his resignation this spring. He was formerly president of the Metropolitan Housing Council, and has served as president of the Illinois Society of Architects. He is Regional Director of the American Institute of Architects.

The proposed ten million dollar housing project is the first to be financed in this city under the United States Housing Act, passed last summer. It is to be located between 37th and 39th streets, Cottage Grove avenue and South Parkway. It consists of approximately 1700 units, made up of row houses and apartments.

Analysis Prepared By New York Man

Plans for an expansion of recreational activity for Rockford negroes at the Booker Washington center will be outlined this afternoon at a meeting of the center's advisory board with Ernest T. Attwell of New York City, field director of the bureau of colored work for the national recreation association.

Attwell, a former member of the faculty of Tuskegee institute, founded by Booker Washington, has been in Rockford during the past week preparing an analysis of needs of the Rockford center, located in the Kent school building.

During a conference with the board of directors of the center last night, Attwell praised the local organization for its work.

"The educational values in a directed recreation program such as the Washington center promotes are of unquestionable benefit to the community," he said. "Not only is the goal better citizenship, but the center represents a symbol of interracial amity, and is indicative of good will toward a minority group, not duplicated in any other agency."

HU Grad Named *afro-american* Asst. in PAL

WASHINGTON

The appointment of Mrs. Olga Bowers Parker as assistant to the supervisor of colored activities of the Playground Athletic League was announced this week by the PAL director.

The appointment comes in the way of a promotion to Mrs. Parker, who has been connected with the PAL as a play leader since her graduation from the physical education department of Howard University in 1932.

Mrs. Parker, who is a native of Baltimore, is the daughter of Mrs. Grace Bowers. Her new duties will consist of assisting in the supervision of the thirty-five workers now employed by the PAL, under the direction of C. C. Jackson, supervisor of colored activities.

Mrs. Parker once taught swimming at Druid Hill Park, and is the owner of a Red Cross Life Saving Badge.

Active as Student

She was very active in athletics and extra-curricula activities while a student at Howard.

She was captain of the hockey team, vice president of the Girls' Athletic Association, director of Intra-Mural Sports, and director of the Archery Club.

Parks and Play Grounds - 1938

Mississippi.

Jackson, Miss., News

May 6, 1938

SQUARE DEAL FOR NEGROES

If and when Jackson gets a part of the administration's new spending-lending budget a goodly sum therefrom should be used for providing our negro population with a public park and recreational playgrounds.

For several years the Daily News has been persistently urging that this be done, and will continue to so urge until the desired result is obtained.

Jackson has a splendid negro citizenry—thousands of decent, hard-working, law-abiding colored people who pay their taxes and meet all obligations of government, but this class of our population has not received the consideration it deserves in the way of recreational facilities provided for white citizens.

There is rarely a race problem of any serious nature in a community where the negro race is given a square deal.

Parks and Play Grounds - 1938

Negro National Recreation Association.
6

Knoxville, Tenn. Journal
August 11, 1938

Is Honored



Everett Freeman, supervisor of local Negro parks and playgrounds, has been elected a national committeeman of the Negro National Recreation association. He attended the convention recently and is the only southerner on the committee. Activities at Cal Johnson park, Leslie field and of the various churches, schools and civic organizations are held under Freeman's supervision. He had special training for the work at Knoxville college.

Parks and Play Grounds-1938

North Carolina.

Dunn, N. C. Dispatch
July 15, 1938

Asheville, N. C. Citizen
July 22, 1938

EXTEND PROGRAM OF RECREATION WORK TO START ON NEGRO PARK THIS MORNING

Negro Children of City Will Begin Participating Next Week

Carrying out plans made when the supervised program of recreation sponsored by the local American Legion Post for boys and girls of the city began June 17, under the direction of Hilton Morton, the Negro youth of the city will participate in the movement beginning Monday, according to an announcement made today.

William Lampley, Jr., will act as head counselor of the work which will be supervised by Morton, and he will be assisted by Miss Margaret Satterwhite, Grover Lee, and Harry Satterwhite.

Lampley said today that two hours in the afternoons—from four until six o'clock—will be devoted to recreation for colored children seven years old and older. Tennis, croquet, softball, and horseshoe pitching are among the games planned for their entertainment.

The schedule covers only week days, and no games will be played on Saturday or Sunday.

The Negroes expressed their appreciation to Mr. Morton, the Rev. J. M. Hall, and others responsible for helping get the movement started among the colored race, and said that they would appreciate the cooperation of all local citizens.

Morton reported today that a large number of boys and girls are reporting daily for the program for white children at the high school, and that a smooth working routine is being carried on.

Greensboro, N. C. News
November 1, 1938

ATTENDANCE TOTALS 147,018.

A total attendance of 147,018 negroes at events sponsored by the negro division of the local recreation commission was reported by Harry K. Parker, director of the division, in his annual report to the commission.

Weather permitting, work will be started on the negro recreation center on Walton street at 10 o'clock this morning.

Mayor R. M. Wells and Dr. L. O. Miller, negro physician who is prominent in the Negro Welfare Council, will officiate at the ceremonies.

Members of the welfare council, who have devoted considerable time to working for the park, planned the ground-breaking ceremony.

First work at the new park will include landscaping, erection of an administration building, a pavilion and the construction of outdoor fireplaces, horseshoe pitching courts and other facilities.

Rockingham, N. C. Post-Dispatch
August 25, 1938

Negro Recreation Activities

Federal Project for Negro Children Rockingham-Hamlet

ROCKINGHAM NEGRO CENTER

The Negro Recreation Center of Rockingham records another week of good attendance and activities. The children seem to enjoy the games immensely. There was a "Jumping rope" contest Tuesday evening. The winners among the colored race, and said that were Dezzie Little and Wendell Hines.

The Lay Committee program rendered in the High School auditorium on Thursday morning consisted of members of the Morrison Training School, the Negro High School, and the Supervisor of Hamlet, N. C. Musical games were given by the children of the center, which were enjoyed by all present.

We wish to solicit your attendance to our County Play Day, Saturday, September third, at the Colored High School.

Leaders,
Minnie E. Fletcher
Minnie Leak

HAMLET NEGRO CENTER

The Center of Hamlet is showing remarkable progress. Wednesday the center sponsored a Baseball game having an attendance of three hundred. The First Nine of Hamlet played the Recreation Center team. The game proved to be very exciting ending with a score of 3-0 in favor of the First Nine.

Young People's night (Monday and Tuesday 7:30-9:30) is being greatly attended.

Leaders,
Annie Jackson
Mary Strong

"Philadelphia" Center

An almost one hundred percent representation of the parents and friends of the Philadelphia community joined in the gigantic festival on Aug. 23rd at the Recreational Center in that community. The affair served as a climax of the summer program depicting the types of activities carried on at the Center.

At 10:30 the group assembled for a brief song service, announcements and group games. After which a detailed outline of the agenda for the day was given, as to the group in which each person would participate. For the children under 10, singing and active games, telling and acting stories and bounce ball were the choice. For those 10-18 horseshoe pitching, active games, quiet games, croquet and baseball and softball held full sway. The men and women found fun galore in horseshoe pitching and group singing, Bingo and croquet, along with the many things they watched the little ones do.

Among the gifts of the week were a Bingo set by Miss Nannie Covington, and a very nice croquet set by the pastor of M. E. Zion church here. He has also been the donor of the money to secure a truck to clay the croquet court. The whole community joins in saying thanks to him and all those who have worked so faithfully in clearing the grounds and other work.

The Center on Wednesday joined the Hamlet Center in an afternoon fo good and long remembered fun.

Leaders—
Mildred Wall
Lillie Leak.

Winston-Salem, N. C. Sentinel
October 19, 1938

Negro Recreation Leaders to Meet

A conference for Negro recreation leaders of the Winston-Salem area, works progress administration, will begin at the Columbia Heights School Thursday and will continue through Saturday.

Registration will take place from 9 to 10 o'clock tomorrow morning. Suggested problems for discussion are the present and future of the spot map, publicizing the recreation program and diagramming play areas. Games will be discussed, with L. G. Blackus in charge of speedball, Charles Dunston in charge of running and tag games, contests and relays, and Florence Smith in charge of games of low organization.

Those taking part in the afternoon and evening, with their subjects, included: Miss F. Smith, folk dancing; Miss McClain, rhythm bands; Dunston, puppets; R. Williams, clay modeling. A social program will be held in the evening.

A similar program will be presented each of the other two days of the conference. The final session will be held at 5 o'clock Saturday afternoon.

L. G. Blackus, state supervisor of WPA Negro work, will be in charge.

Durham, N. C. Morning Herald
November 4, 1938

SOUTHERN WATER SCHOOL FOR NEGROES IS PLANNED

Plans for a south-wide aquatic school for Negroes here in June are being considered, J. L. Morehead, chairman of the recreation commission, commented during last night's hearing in the city hall on a proposal to expand tennis facilities in Forest Hills.

Mr. Morehead said such a school would attract students from eight states. There is nothing like it in the south now, he said.

The matter was mentioned in passing to demonstrate some of the activities of the recreation commission and the chairman discussed the plan.

Parks and Play Grounds - 1938

North Carolina

Greensboro, N. C. Record
January 1, 1938

Area Is Designated For Negro Skaters

Due to increased interest in skating since Christmas brought forth many new pairs of skates, a special skating area for negroes had been established in front of Memorial stadium, where the negro children will be permitted to skate during the afternoons without being arrested for violation of the law.

Daniel R. Neal, city recreational director, pointed out today that it was generally observed throughout the city that many more skates were apparently distributed as Christmas gifts this season than usual.

Asheville, N. C. Citizen
February 3, 1938

CITY REQUESTED TO PUSH PLANS FOR NEGRO PARK

Welfare Council Thanks Council For Its Efforts

The Negro Welfare council, in a letter to City Manager P. M. Burdette and members of the city council, yesterday asked that the city go ahead with its plans to develop a negro recreation park on Walton street.

"We feel that the reaching of a decision on the park site will be effective in checking whatever sporadic efforts may be made in the future by groups wanting certain locations because of personal interests," Julius C. Highe, negro, director of the welfare council, wrote.

Plans Approved

The city council already has approved plans for the park and the city manager has been authorized to close the deal for the property. Luther Thomas, negro, and two other members of a negro "taxpayers committee," appeared at last week's city council meeting and asked for time to prepare petitions against locating the park on Walton street. The deal has been held up in the meantime because of the illness of the city manager.

The Negro Welfare council takes this opportunity to thank you, and the members of the city council, for

your untiring efforts in attempting to establish a park for negroes," Highe wrote.

"At a meeting held a few weeks ago by some negroes interested in the development of a park, a committee was appointed to meet Mr. Burdette, the city manager. This group heartily endorsed the effort of the city officials in attempting to provide much needed recreational facilities for our people. It was the understanding that the matter of location was to be left with the city council, the only definite request being that the facilities be adequate, and that the park compare favorably with those established in Greensboro, Raleigh, and other centers in the larger North Carolina cities.

Will Check "Certain Groups"
"Although it is not within our province, as a welfare council primarily interested in the recreation of our boys and girls, to speak for all of the colored people of Asheville; we feel that if the foregoing recommendations are adopted, a crucial problem can be satisfactorily settled. We feel that the reaching of a decision on the park site will be effective in checking whatever sporadic efforts may be made in the future by groups wanting certain locations because of personal interests."

Highe enclosed letters of endorsement from the Negro Interdenominational Ministerial alliance, the negro professional group, and the negro business men.

Raleigh, N. C., News & Observer
March 20, 1938

City to Dedicate Park in Honor of 19th Century Slave Teacher

The City Commissioners in an official ordinance yesterday named the local Negro recreation park "John Chavis Memorial Park". This was the first park in the South built by Federal funds, to be devoted to the exclusive use of Negroes.

The Negro Citizens Committee and 25 affiliated civic organizations petitioned the commissioners to name the park after the famous Negro slave educator. The park will be dedicated in May.

Chavis was the first known Negro slave to be educated at a Southern college, attending Liberty Hall (now Washington and Lee University) before graduating from Princeton University.

He returned to Raleigh to teach, running a day school for white youth in the vicinity of St. Paul's Negro A. M. E. Church on Edenton Street. This school was operated in Raleigh as early as 1808. At night he taught his own race.

Some of his outstanding pupils

included Charles Manley, later Governor of the State; Abram Rencher, Minister to Portugal and Governor of New Mexico; James Horner, founder of Horner Military Academy; Oxford; Archibald and John Henderson, the sons of Chief Justice Henderson, the Rev. William Harris, and Dr. J. L. Wortham.

Chavis was born in 1763 and died in 1838.

Raleigh Recreation Park Named After John Chavis, Educator

City Commissioners Approve Name Submitted By Citizen's Committee; Additions Being Made To Plant

(Special to Journal and Guide)

RALEIGH, N. C.—John Chavis, eminent Negro educator, was honored here last week when Raleigh's new \$125,000 recreation plant was named the John Chavis Memorial Park. More than eight months after the facility was opened to the city's Negro population last summer.

The combination swimming pool playground, and recreation park, commemoration of a group representing the Negro Citizens Committee, and most of the church and civic organizations in the city. Mr. Chavis was born in 1763 and died in 1838. He was educated at Washington and Lee and Princeton Universities. Mr. Chavis conducted schools in Raleigh, Hillsboro, and Oxford.

MANY WHITE STUDENTS

A resume of his educational work, submitted by the Citizens Committee, revealed that a number of white leaders were among his students. These included: Charles Manley, governor of North Carolina; Abram Rencher, minister to Portugal and former governor of New Mexico; James Horner, founder of Horner's School; Willie P. Mangum, Archibald and John L. Henderson, and the Rev. William Harris.

The dedication of the new park is expected to take place in May of this year. Details will be worked out by the Citizens Committee.

Raleigh Park Named For Negro Educator

RALEIGH, N. C.—The John Chavis Memorial Park, opened here early in May, is regarded as one of the finest parks in the South. It is named for John Chavis, a free Negro who was a distinguished educator in the early years of the Republic. As a tutor for leading white families, among his pupils a boy, Charles Manly, who became governor of North Carolina. Another pupil was Abram Rencher, who became governor of New Mexico.

The park, comprising 113 acres, extends over what was formerly a waste area in the southeastern section of the city. The purchase of this land, its clearance and the building of recreation facilities were all made possible by WPA funds and contributions provided by the city.

Thus far, \$113,409 has been spent in the building of an athletic field, concrete grandstands for spectators, a swimming pool, tennis courts, an enclosed merry-go-round, and refreshment stands.

ADDITIONS MADE

The park which was constructed with WPA funds, cost in the neighborhood of \$125,000. Other additions are now in progress and it is hoped that it will be completed in the near future.

One of the new features of the Citizens Committee is the sponsorship of a public forum which meets monthly in some church in the city. Problems affecting the welfare of the community are discussed. The officers of the committee are as follows: F. J. Carnegie, president; W. R. Johnson, vice president; J. W. Yeargin, executive secretary; Curtis Todd, recording secretary; and Leonidas Frazier, treasurer.

Illinois has appropriated the money for a new laboratory for the Geological Survey at Urbana and Dr. Reed's visit to Howard was for the purpose of acquainting himself with the most recent facilities such as are provided in the Howard Chemistry Building.

Crowd At Chavis Park Dedication



Negro Slave Honored in Dedication of Recreation Center Here

More than 3,000 spectators turned out yesterday for an all-day jubilee celebrating the dedication of the John Chavis Memorial Park, a Federal and city gift to Raleigh Negroes and named in honor of a slave who died 100 years ago.

State WPA Administrator George W. Coan, Jr., presented the new \$113,409 park to the city and reviewed recent progress in the South in providing recreational facilities for children and adults. "This park will be a blessing to this generation and generations to come," the WPA official said in emphasizing the helpful effect of normal recreation in reducing crime.

Addressing an audience which applauded frequently, Coan said the WPA had provided Negro parks in three other North Carolina cities, had placed "thousands of Negroes on WPA projects" and was now instructing 10,832 Negro adults in the State in education classes. The John Chavis park was built with \$88,431 from the Federal treasury and \$24,976 from the city. Further expenditures and improvements are contemplated.

This gift from the WPA and the City of Raleigh will bless generations to come, George W. Coan, Jr., State WPA Director, is telling a crowd of more than 3,000 at the dedication of the Chavis Memorial Park yesterday. On the platform, facing the new stands, are officials of State and the City of Raleigh and local Negro leaders who took part in the dedication program. The recreation center commands an excellent view of downtown Raleigh.

Other officials who spoke at the dedication were Mayor George A. Iseley, Public Works Commissioner Roy L. Williamson and State Auditor George Ross Pou. The Negro Citizens' Committee was in charge of the program. E. C. Lawrence acted as master of ceremonies and F. J. Carnegie making the speech of acceptance.

The speakers' stand, decorated with red, white and blue bunting, was placed before the concrete bleachers at the east side of the large playing field which has been leveled out in the side of a hill overlooking the modern swimming pool, merry-go-round and terraced park grounds below.

Students from local Negro schools and colleges staged their May Day exercises yesterday morning as a prelude to the dedication, and, following a picnic lunch at noon, other civic groups paraded to band music. The man for whom the park was named yesterday was a Presbyterian clergyman born before the Revolution. As an itinerant tutor and schoolmaster he taught in Greenville, Wake and Chatham counties. Many of his pupils became the Negro recreation centers. The

prominent politicians, lawyers, ministers and teachers. One was a governor.

The name, selected from 27 submitted in a contest at Washington High School, was proposed by Marguerite Tolliver, 15. She was unable to be present yesterday and the award, a season ticket to the pavillion, was received by her grandmother, Ethel Austin, the widow of one of Raleigh's best known barbers. Gideon Austin.

Durham, N. C., Morning Herald
June 11, 1938

RECREATION INSTITUTE PLANNED FOR NEGROES

Prominent Negro citizens will address a recreation institute for Negroes to be held through Friday of next week at Hillside Park school. It was announced yesterday by C. R. Wood, city recreation director. The institute will be similar to that to be held for the white people next week, Mr. Wood said. An examination will be held Friday night and those making the highest grades will be employed this summer at the Negro recreation centers. The

speakers for the institute include Professor A. Henninburg of the North Carolina College for Negroes, Monday night; Rev. J. A. Valentine and Rev. Miles Mark Fisher, local pastors, Tuesday night; W. D. Hill, of the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance company, Wednesday night; and C. C. Spaulding, president of the insurance company, Thursday night.

Durham, N. C., Morning Herald
June 23, 1938

NEW NEGRO PARK WILL OPEN TODAY

Mayor To Present Whitted Center To Recreation Board As Summer Program Opens

Whitted neighborhood park, on Branch alley near Proctor street, will be opened with exercises this afternoon at 4:30 o'clock. The neighborhood park, the recreation department's third, was built with the aid of the works progress administration.

Mayor W. F. Carr will present the park to the recreation commission, which is headed by J. L. Morehead, this afternoon.

Other neighborhood parks are on Oval drive and Trinity avenue.

The new development, on the site of the old Whitted school, will provide Negro residents of the community with facilities for tennis, horseshoes, croquet, badminton, and other playground games.

At the same time, benches and tables for picnics and a wading pool have been provided. A fence surrounds the park area.

Emma Butler has been chosen director of the Whitted park and Percy Claggett has been named wading pool guard. Claggett is a senior life saver and a member of the Durham Negro life saving corps.

C. R. Wood, city recreation director, said other playground areas throughout the city will open today at 3 o'clock. These areas and directors follow:

Oval drive, Mrs. Bertha Carneal; E. K. Powe, Dillard Sholes; Trinity avenue, Mrs. Jeanette Adams; Erwin No. 6, Dally Draughan; Morehead Edmund Swindell; Long Meadow, C. L. Brewbaker; East Durham ball park, Mrs. Anne Morrow; Durham Hosiery, Emery Adkins; Lakewood Louise Boney; Forest Hills, H. H. Dotson; Hillside, Elwynn Midgett; East End, Lucille Bush; Lyon Park Ethel Hubbard, and Pearson, Walter Green.

Elizabethton, N. C., Journal
June 23, 1938

Jones Lake Will Be Negro Resort

Work Well Underway; Resort Will Be Complete 1939; At Seabreeze 1938

The Department of Conservation and Development of this state, with the co-operation of the Farm Security Administration, are speeding up the development of Jones Lake in Bladen county to be used exclusively by the Negro race. When completed and ready for use, this will be one of the most desirable summer resorts in this section. In the past, the Negroes have been holding their 4th of July celebration at Lake Waccamaw on July 6th, but the situation has gotten out of all bounds, on account of the inadequate sanitary facilities to take care of such an enormous crowd. The past few years has seen from 15 to 20

thousand people at the Lake on the 6th of July and a congestion of that proportion will result disastrously sooner or later. Unfortunately, the Jones Lake Beach will not be ready this summer, but should be ready by next summer. The Negro celebration will be held at Seabreeze this summer, the 6th of July.

Greensboro, N. C., News
June 26, 1938

NEGRO UNIT SPONSORS DIVERSIFIED PROGRAM

Harry K. Parker, Director of Colored Recreation, Submits His Annual Report.

Total of 61,281 persons attended activities sponsored the past year by the negro division of the city recreation department, according to the annual report of Harry K. Parker, director of colored recreation.

The Windsor community center program attracted 44,120 of this number. There were 5,000 listed who took part in the swimming facilities offered at Nocho Park swimming pool. Special activities, including church programs and Richardson hospital recreation service attracted 12,161 persons.

The staff of the Windsor center in addition to Director Parker included X. Marie Allen, director of girls and women's activities; C. L. McCollum, custodian; Hayes Payton, assistant director; Walter McNair, director of music; Robert Moffitt and

Cross Boyd, secretaries; Parthenia N. A. workers and five volunteers; Boyd, crafts and girls' activities; Mary Crooms, children's and music center has been as broad as the boys' activity leader, Arthur Headen, an extensive program of athletic, athletic director; W. E. Hooker, director Bennett college art center and Lucille Moore, children's activity leader. In addition there were 300

Not Enough Negroes Available To Staff Colonial Park Playground

Says Park Commissioner Moses

"Prior to the mayoralty election here was a Negro staff in charge of said playground were they employees of the Park Department? And if they were, what has become of them?"

"As the question before us is one of community betterment, it is immaterial to me whether the name 'Negro' is written with or without a capital letter."

J. E. Samuels of 300 West 153rd street is the recipient of a letter from William H. Latham, park engineer under Commissioner Robert Moses, explaining that the reason the playground in Colonial Park from 145th to 150th street is not staffed with Negro supervisors is because "there are not enough Negro employees in the Park Department to do so."

Mr. Samuels replied that prior to the mayoralty election there was a Negro staff in charge of said playground and inquired if they were employees of the Park Department and if they were, what has become of them?

The controversy arose when Samuels wrote Commissioner Moses as follows:

"While admiring the beautiful improvement of Colonial Park, two flaws attracted my attention: First, the seats on the eastern side of the dance area are facing north and south while the dance space is on the west. Had these seats been facing west not only would their occupants been benefited but there would have been room for two more rows of seats."

"Secondly, the drainage on 148th street and Bradhurst avenue is poor, for the water coming off the hill and across the park when it rains makes the sidewalk on the western side of said avenue impassable."

"These two improvements and a staff composed entirely of Negroes would put the finishing touch to your magnificent planning."

The Commissioner's Reply

William H. Latham, park engineer, replied for Commissioner Moses as follows:

"The landscape design called for the location of the benches as they are at present. It was considered by the designers that the relation between the benches and the dance area was secondary to the present orientation of the benches, as the dance area is used only occasionally in comparison with the majority of the benches. Of course, this is purely a question of judgment in design and although there is undoubtedly

some basis for your suggestion that the benches are better the way they are.

As to the drainage system, this has already been completed according to plan, which takes care of the condition to which you call attention.

In the matter of a staff composed entirely of negroes we would be glad to follow out your suggestion, but there are not enough negro employees in the Department to do so."

As a rejoinder to the letter of Mr. Latham, Mr. Samuels wrote under date of January 13 as follows:

"In reply to your communication of January 5, rearrangement of benches in the dance area of Colonial Park, faulty drainage and the staffing of the playground with Negroes, I beg to state that as long as three rows of benches in the dance area remain as they are—one facing east, one north and the other south, instead of all three facing west and thereby enabling their occupants to view the musicians, dancers, singers or lecturers as the case may be from the front of them—there will be cause for regret at their awkward orientation."

"As long as the sidewalk on the park side of 148th street and Bradhurst avenue is impassable when it rains on account of the amount of water coming off the hill and across the park, there could be no doubt that the sloping of the land towards the drainage in the park is insufficient. This poor workmanship is also noticeable where the drainage water running north from the dance area comes in contact with that running south on 150th street, for there is always a pool of water to be waded through."

"Is it not strange that there are not enough Negro voters in New York to gratify the desires of ambitious office seekers, enough to fill the churches to listen to seductive political speeches, enough to dance the Susie-que, truck and big apple, enough to play the horse shoe game and lounge on the park benches and not enough employed by the Park Department to staff a small playground as the one in question?"

Parks and Play Grounds - 1938

Recreation Training Institute.

National Director Lectures Institute

Fourteen members of the local Negro racial group were among the more than 250 enrollees at the Recreation Training Institute held at the Church Street Methodist Episcopal Church last week.

Ernest T. Atwell, attachee of the National Recreation Association was the one who addressed the institute. Mr. Atwell lectured to the group on Monday and Tuesday afternoon sessions. He left the city Wednesday for Peoria, Ill.

During his stay of three days in the city Mr. Atwell delivered addresses before groups at Austin High School, Knoxville College and on Tuesday evening he stressed the need of Knoxville Negroes co-operating in promoting a program of recreation in an address delivered at the Phyllis Wheatley Branch YWCA.

Spartanburg S. C. Journal
May 24, 1938

\$49,000 NEGRO PROJECT HERE IS APPROVED

Council Also Discusses New Playground for South Side

Approval of a \$49,000 WPA project, extended discussion of several other federal-aid projects, and a renewal of interest in a proposal for a playground in the southern section of the city featured the weekly session of the Spartanburg city council yesterday afternoon.

Council approved a project providing for the continuance of work on a negro recreation at Evins and Twitty street, and the beautification of grounds of the structure. Under terms of the project proposal approved by council, the city will furnish \$1,375 in supplies and \$700 in equipment toward the total cost of the project, listed at \$49,096.

Work Included

Work to be done includes the grading of ground surrounding the building, laying of pipework, and the building of retaining walls. The recreation center is built upon city-owned property, and will be operated under the supervision of the city park department.

The recreation building is almost completed, by NYA labor provided by an earlier federal-aid project sponsored by the city. The first project called for an expenditure of \$11,822.

The extended discussion concerning other federal-aid projects here was precipitated by Councilman R. Fred Maddox, who declared that he wished to go on record as saying he would not sign any more WPA project proposals as city-sponsored work until officials submitted the council's inspection copies of pay-rolls on all city-sponsored projects.

Reason For Statement

His reason for such a statement, Mr. Maddox said, was occasioned by the fact that work on a city-sponsored WPA project for a softball field at Cleveland park had been halted because funds for the work had been exhausted. Before work on the softball field was started the city council agreed to sponsor the project as the local agency, and also to furnish about \$500 for the erection of lights at the field.

At the request of Mr. Maddox Prof. D. H. Montgomery, honorary and Councilman L. T. Cothran, ice-president of the fraternity, Councilman Arthur Willis, in charge of the park department, agreed to send a truck and convict labor to the site to complete the project, halted for several weeks.

Mr. Maddox said he had inspected the site of the field and that he estimated a truck and about 10 men could complete the job in approximately 10 days.

To Furnish Labor

Mr. Willis said the truck and labor would be sent to the softball field as soon as they could be spared from other construction work now being carried on by the street department, and that it might be possible to comply with the request today, or at least before the end of the current week.

Council formally approved yesterday a WPA project for the construction of a Memorial park at Camp Wadsworth. It was explained that all property and material needed for the park was being supplied by Frank Hodges, local hotel operator and land owner.

Playground Proposal

The playground proposal was re-opened by the appearance of Ernest Gentry and R. H. Baer, of the real estate firm of Baer and Gentry, who offered to sell the city a 12-acre tract of land on Irwin avenue "at a reasonable price." The property is near the city limits, and offers ample room for a playground, softball diamond, and other improvements, Mr. Gentry said.

Action on the proposal, first offered several months ago at a council meeting, was deferred until a later meeting, when members of the council have had an opportunity to inspect the property.

Ask Highway Approval

A representative of the state highway department appeared at the council meeting with plans of the new Spartanburg-Greenville super-highway, asking their approval by council.

Councilmen Willis and Cothran signed a document signifying their approval of the completed portion of the work inside the city limits.

Mayor T. W. Woodworth declined to sign the document, saying he wished to confer with the city engineer. Harwood Beebe, before committing himself, Councilman Maddox also refused to sign the document yesterday, saying he would affix his signature this morning.

Councilman John A. Wood did not sign the document yesterday, but signified that he would sign later.

To Sell Liquor

Harvey Johnson, city attorney who was present at the session yesterday, was instructed to furnish licensed liquor dealers of the city with a copy of a list of the brands and quantity of liquor confiscated by city police and which is to be sold by the city.

Parks and Play Grounds- 1938

Tennessee

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
August 24, 1938

NEGROES' PLAYGROUNDS WILL CLOSE TOMORROW

Negro summer playgrounds will close tomorrow afternoon with a pageant to be given at Lincoln park at 5:30 o'clock.

"Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," "Sleeping Beauty," "Little Red Riding Hood" and "Cinderella" will be presented by playground children from the eight playgrounds that have been operated during the summer months under direction of the city's recreation department.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
August 27, 1938

RECREATION FACTS

In connection with the pageant staged at Lincoln Park Thursday by approximately 1,000 parents and patrons of the nine municipal playgrounds maintained in Chattanooga for Negroes there were disclosed several interesting facts of which the entire community can be proud. For one thing, it is estimated that 110,000 persons have visited the playgrounds and swimming pools since the season opened and that during the entire period there has not been a serious accident on any of the playgrounds. That is a tribute to the orderliness of the patrons and to the expert watchfulness of playground supervisors.

Scores of participants in the pageant Thursday appeared in costumes made by parents of the children and by others who worked in the various Negro neighborhoods under the direction of playground supervisors. The program and the spirit of cooperation shown by all who labored to make it a success justified the comment of J. Edward Hargraves, recreation director, that the exhibition was "the finest of its kind in the history of the city."

It is hard to imagine a more useful work than that which is done as a part of the city-wide recreational program. Organized play activities for white and Negro children fill in the Summer out-of-school season in a fashion which not only banishes

Memphis, Tenn. Commercial Appeal
April 12, 1938

Arranges Camp



Col. John W. Long,

NEGRO PARK PROJECT CCC CAMP APPROVED

Construction Forces To Start Moving In Today

Approval of establishment of a camp of 200 negro CCC boys to build the forest park for Shelby County negroes at the end of Mitchell Avenue on 515 acres of land purchased by the county government from Dover Barrett was obtained by Army officers yesterday.

They plan to begin moving the construction camp today, with work on the project to begin about May 1.

In view of objections raised when the negro camp was established near Collierville. Col. John W.

Long, commanding officer at Fort McClellan, came to Memphis. He found that the communities nearest the new forest park are negro. Favorable expressions were obtained from the County Court; E. W. Hale, chairman of the County Commission; Joe Boyle, city finance commissioner; Judge Sam O. Bates; O. H. Perry, chief deputy sheriff; W. Percy McDonald, county School Board chairman; Dr. Sue Powers, county school superintendent; A. G. Barnes, county school finance officer, and others.

"This is the first camp of its kind in the country, so far as I know, and we are glad to co-operate in building it," Colonel Lang said. Enrollees from Memphis can transfer to the camp from more distant camps, he said.

He was accompanied by Capt. T. C. Wesley, in charge of construction, and Capt. M. L. Patton, medical officer.

NEGRO SWIMMING POOL

To The Commercial Appeal:

We the citizens of Memphis and members of the negro race, feel that you as editor of the greatest newspaper in the South can help us.

We have before us a problem. To us it is serious. Do you know that we don't have a swimming pool?

Now we think that a city as beautiful and progressive as Memphis seems incomplete without one, to our visiting friends it seems very strange that a city as large and a city with so many other places of interest should be without a simple little swimming pool for negroes.

We only had one and of course you know it has been condemned as unsanitary. Don't you think the city could do something about reconditioning that one? We would do all we could to co-operate.

We feel that a swimming pool of any kind is more sanitary than a creek or other places where most of our boys go during Summer months. We feel sure it would cut the death rate of drowning. We are sure our appeal to you is not lost and we know you'll do everything to help us. Thanking you for past favors, we remain,

Respectfully yours,
CITIZENS OF MEMPHIS.

Memphis, Tenn., Scimitar
April 9, 1938

NEGROES LAUD FOREST PLANS

Letters to Commissioner Hale Approve Proposal For 500-Acre Park

Three Memphis negro organizations today hailed establishment of a 500-acre forest recreational project in Shelby County as a "major, material contribution to the pleasure, to the improved health and to a spirit of harmony and good will to all the people of our county."

Community Welfare League, Memphis Negro Chamber of Commerce and Memphis Branch, National Association for Advancement of Colored People, sent a letter to County Commissioner E. W. Hale thanking him and Mayor Overton for "their efforts and interests in securing the land for a rural outdoor park and camping facilities for the colored people of Shelby County."

Suggest Negro Board

The organizations suggested appointment of a negro advisory committee to help develop the forest park, three and one-half miles southeast of Memphis on bluffs of the Mississippi.

If the park is "properly improved" by landscaping, construction of cabins and roads and establishment of a lake for fishing and boating "it will prove highly suitable and adapted to the purpose for which it is intended," the letter said.

Progressive Move

"We take this occasion to express to you the sincere appreciation of thousands of colored people in Memphis and Shelby County on account of the announced purchase of a 500-acre tract of land for recreational purposes for the colored people of the Tri-States. The growth of our city and the expansion of the residential area serve to reduce the natural facilities for outdoor recreation which are so essential to the health and life of the people," the letter said.

"The fact that this tract has been secured, providing ample space and facilities for thousands at the same time, means more to us than words can express. Evidences of

thoughtful considerations of the needs of our people have a marked influence upon the mental attitude, cultivates a spirit of goodwill and encourages a higher type of citizenship."

Memphis, Tenn., Commercial Appeal
April 14, 1938

NEGRO SWIMMING POOL

To The Commercial Appeal:

We the citizens of Memphis and members of the negro race, feel that you as editor of the greatest newspaper in the South can help us.

We have before us a problem. To us it is serious. Do you know that we don't have a swimming pool?

Now we think that a city as beautiful and progressive as Memphis seems incomplete without one, to our visiting friends it seems very strange that a city as large and a city with so many other places of interest should be without a simple little swimming pool for negroes.

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We feel that a swimming pool of any kind is more sanitary than a creek or other places where most of our boys go during Summer months. We feel sure it would cut the death rate of drowning. We are sure our appeal to you is not lost and we know you'll do everything to help us. Thanking you for past favors, we remain,

Respectfully yours,
CITIZENS OF MEMPHIS.

Editor's Note: The Commercial Appeal in another section today has a statement from the Park Commission explaining that efforts are being made to provide a fine pool for negroes but it could not be ready until 1939. Lack of immediate funds prevents anything being completed until that time.

Columbia, Tenn., Daily Herald
May 10, 1938

NEW PARK FOR NEGROES BOUGHT ON IRON BRIDGE

PARK COMMISSION ALREADY BEGUN WORK ON SEVEN ACRES FOR BALL PARK.

CITY TO SELL OFF LOTS, RUN STREET ON PREMISES

Old Grandstand In Pillow Park Being Razed With Good Lumber To Be Used In New Construction.

Work was started Monday by the City Park Commission under the direction of Henry Shelton, a member, on the ball park for colored people. The other members of the commission are Saul Kaplan and Howard Maxwell.

The city bought seven acres of land from W. S. Snedegar, just outside the city limits on the north side of the Iron Bridge road, for which the price was \$75 per acre or \$525 for the entire tract. The park proper will contain about five acres of the land and the balance will be sold off by the city in lots. A street will run through the property to the park.

Already, Street Superintendent Ulna Swann has a large force of hands with scrapers leveling off the diamond and otherwise getting the grounds ready. Commissioner Shelton has a force of hands tearing down the old grandstand in Pillow Park, with the good lumber from this to be used in the construction of a grandstand in the new colored ball park.

The entire cost of the park and equipment will be around \$1,000, which will include the building of the street into the property.

Chattanooga Dedicates New \$60,000 Swimming Pool For Negro Citizens

Seek \$150,000 Library and Cultural Center In Progress Plans—Get Approval of Interracial Group.

By JASPER T. DUNCAN

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., July 7—Friday night Negro citizens of this city saw the dream of all their years existence here, become a reality, when Commissioner of Public Utilities Robert M. Cooke, formally presented them a \$60,000 swimming pool, on their PWA and city department work. The pool was constructed out of funds from the city and the form. PWA.

The 80x200-foot community adjunct was accepted in the name of the colored populace by the Rev. Jesse Belmont Barber, pastor of the Leonard Street Presbyterian church, and chairman of the colored division of the interracial committee.

Five thousand citizens gathered at the park for the ceremonies held in front of the entrance to the pool on a temporary platform constructed for the occasion.

Dr. McCallie Speaker

The main address was made by Dr. Spencer McCallie, headmaster of the McCallie School for Boys (white) who traced and praised the progress of the Negro in the past 75 years, mentioning the name of the Negro scientist, Dr. George W. Carver, of Tuskegee institute, and others of the race who have made honorable contribution in every field of human endeavor.

"Realizing his own God-given powers, the Negro asks for no subsidies, no guardianships, no special favors, but for equal and unrestricted rights to achieve equality of justice, and freedom to carve out his own destiny," he declared.

Tonight all, both white and colored, rejoice that through the energy of Commissioner Cooke and his able lieutenants one step has been taken in giving our colored citizens that to which they are justly entitled."

Commissioner Cooke, presented by Recreation Director J. Edward Hargraves, spoke briefly, stating that this was but another one of his efforts to help build a bigger, better Chattanooga.

Commissioner of Education T. H. McMillan, the only other city official present, was introduced, but did not address the audience. Several

New Cultural Center

Mention was made of a new library and cultural center for Negroes with an auditorium for Little Theatre activities and small gatherings that are non-sectarian, as proposed by Rev. Barber to the interracial commission.

In speaking of this the Rev. Lin D. Cartwright, (white) pastor of the First Christian church, a member of the Interracial committee and one of the pioneers in the project for a Negro swimming pool, said: "We must stand as a unit for community development, and the will of each in respect to community development must be the will of all."

"We must have a library for Negroes that will be a cultural center. It has long been the habit and tendency of the south and this community in matters of finance and community improvements to forget the Negro. But this must not be done in the future, for what affects one affects all," he stated.

Three colored lifeguards have been employed under Butler Richardson, manager, to be on duty at the pool from 10 a. m. to 10 p. m. They are certified by the Red Cross.

Memphis, Tenn. Scimitar
July 23, 1938

SIX-ACRE PARK FOR NEGROES

With Swimming Pool, Other Equipment—City to Ask \$132,000 WPA Grant

Application for a \$132,000 WPA project to build a swimming pool

and playground for negroes in South Memphis has been made by the Park Commission. Mayor Overton announced today.

It will be located on a six-acre site to be selected somewhere east of Lauderdale and north of McEmore and will give Memphis negroes two modern swimming pools and recreation centers.

Washington pool for negroes in North Memphis was built in 1929 and has been repaired and reopened this summer. The city built a park and playground at Washington Park when the pool was constructed and similar facilities will be provided at the new pool.

Swings, slides, sand piles, a baseball diamond, bleachers, lighting for night activities, a field house and comfort stations will be provided. The pool will have showers, foot baths, dressing and check rooms, offices and a first aid room.

"If approval of the project is obtained," Mayor Overton said, "we

will rush construction to be ready for the next season. Swimming is one of the most healthful and essential forms of recreation in a warm climate. We feel that all citizens should be able to enjoy its benefits."

Playground Director Says Pageant Finest In Chattanooga's History

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., Sept. 1.

(Special, by Jasper T. Duncan)

The first of a series of pageants and closing exercises by all of the playgrounds of this city was presented last Thursday at Lincoln Park by the colored play leaders of the nine summer playgrounds, provided by the recreation department, and declared "the finest in the history of the city" by Recreation Director J. Edward Hargraves, white department head.

"Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" opened the program. It was presented by the Grove street and Hamilton avenue playground children. "Sleeping Beauty" was portrayed by children from the Calvin Donaldson and Chattanooga avenue school playground; "Little Red Riding Hood" was performed by Orchard Knob and Rossville playground children; and "Cinderella" was the closing number, by the Joseph E. Smith school and Lincoln park organizations.

All numbers of the pageant were performed in costumes made by patrons and parents of the children, under direction of the workers assigned in various neighborhoods.

All playground workers were guests, as were Supt. P. R. Olgiatti, of parks, and Hubert Oatis, Harry Cochran and Hersche Whitaker, workers in the recreation department, and J. Edward Hargraves, recreation director.

EXHIBITION PRAISED

Director Hargraves said the exhibition given under direction of the colored staff was "the finest program of its kind in the history of the city, and they deserve credit for the work they have done all season."

Hargraves said that an attendance total of 110,000 had been handled on the playgrounds by the nine colored workers since opening. Since the new swimming pool has been open, and a free hour and a half given playground children for swimming in

the pool the last four weeks, he said, an attendance of 4,391 had been recorded. He also "pointed with pride," he said, "that during the season there has not been an accident of consequence on any of the playgrounds."

Each colored director is a graduate of the Red Cross first-aid course. They are Emerita Pitts, Esther Byars, Marion Bynes, Viola Brydie, Beatrice Scruggs, Daisy Knox, Eva James, Ella Hayder and Ethel Wasson.

Chattanooga, Tenn. News
March 22, 1938

Park Planned For Negro On Lake Front

Plans were announced here Monday afternoon by Daniel T. Blaney regional director of the National Park Service, and Allison White of the Hamilton County Planning Commission for a park for Negroes on Chickamauga Lake.

The park will be developed on a tract of 300 to 500 acres of land on the lake front a short distance from the Booker T. Washington colored school and the Mount Calvary colored church.

The park will be reached by the freeway that will be built from the city to the lake. It will be about four miles from the city limits and five or six miles downstream from the Harrison Island park that will be built as a recreational spot for white people.

The work will be done by a CCC camp that is being moved from the Norris basin, Mr. Blaney said.

Memphis, Tenn. Commercial Appeal
April 7, 1938

CCC WILL DEVELOP PARK

Federal Officials Direct Work at
Negro Project Site

The 500-acre tract four miles southwest of Memphis which Shelby County recently purchased to convert into a negro recreation center will be developed by a CCC unit starting next week and be ready for use in six weeks.

Arch A. Brown, Shelby Forest project manager, announced plans following inspection of the site yesterday by Herbert Evison, of Richmond, Va., associate director of Region 1, National Park Service, and Daniel T. Blaney of Knoxville, park service inspector.

Mr. Evison authorized removal of CCC camp facilities at Carrollton, Miss., to Memphis following a conference with Commissioner Hale. Personnel for the camp will come from the Chickamauga Camp near Chattanooga. The Park Service visitors also inspected Shelby Forest and expressed satisfaction with the work accomplished there.

Chattanooga, Tenn. Daily Times
June 13, 1938

NEW POOL FOR COLORED TO BE READY IN 10 DAYS

Lincoln park's new swimming pool for colored Chattanoogaans will be ready for use within ten days, according to William Thornhill, park custodian, who said thousands of Negroes inspected the project yesterday. The pool, a project of the department of parks and playgrounds, cost \$60,000, including PWA aid.

Nashville, Tenn. Tennessean
July 3, 1938

NEGROES DEDICATE NEW PARK MONDAY

Rabbi Julius Mark to Speak
At Douglas Grounds
Services

Douglas Park, a Negro recreation center at Eighth and Fite avenues, will be dedicated with ceremonies beginning at 3 o'clock Monday afternoon, July 4.

The dedication address will be given by Rabbi Julius Mark and acceptance responses made by four Negro civic club members of that section of the city, Bert Cumby, Savella Simmons, the Rev. R. Harris and W. M. Haynes.

Ewell M. Costello, city superintendent of recreation, probably will make a short talk.

The band of the Booker T. Washington Junior High School will play. A program of play activities has been arranged. William Hill is in charge of this park.

Chattanooga, Tenn. News
July 11, 1938

COOKE HAS NO COMMENT ON POOL FEE COMPLAINT

City Commissioner R. M. Cooke, whose department built and operates the new \$60,000 swimming pool for Negroes in Lincoln park, declined last night to comment on Sunday's complaint of Dr. W. A. Thompson, Negro leader, that the pool's admission charges are too high for Negroes.

Inquiry showed that charges at the new pool for Negroes are 25 cents when the swimmer has his own bathing suit and 35 cents when a suit is rented. These prices for adults are the same as those charged at the pool for white people in Warner park, where the pool is leased to a private operator. For children the charge at Lincoln park is 10 cents. At Warner park the children's charge is 15 cents.

Commissioner Cooke also said he had nothing to say about the Negro's appeal that colored girl graduates of Howard High school be given work at the new pool.

Chattanooga, Tenn. Daily Times
July 12, 1938

Public to Visit Negro Swimming Pool

Tuesday evening will be "open house night" at Lincoln Park, when white citizens of Chattanooga have been invited to be guests.

The white guests will see the new swimming pool opened recently for Negroes and other new facilities providing recreation for 30,000 colored people of Chattanooga.

A softball game between colored teams and other special attractions have been arranged.

Chattanooga, Tenn. Daily Times
July 11, 1938

ATTACKS CHARGES AT NEGROES' POOL

Dr. Thompson Urges Lower
Admission So That More
Persons Can Swim

Dr. W. A. Thompson, Negro leader, leveled sharp criticism at the administration of the new Lincoln park swimming pool in a talk yesterday morning on a Men's day program at the First Congregational church, Lindsay at Ninth.

The former colored city physician was the last of three speakers at the special service, which attracted approximately 120 of Chattanooga's leading colored citizens.

Emphasizing the fact that the pool was a community asset, and one badly needed for Negroes, the doctor

launched an attack on the prices charged for swimming, and said, "At the prevailing charge the pool had to resolve itself into a benefit for the classes instead of the masses of the underpaid people it would serve."

He called upon the men of the church and citizens in general to protest to city officials the prices "that range as high as 35 cents per person, and ask for a lower admittance fee in order that our poorer people may take advantage of this fine, wholesome recreation. The way they are going about it now it appears as if they were trying to raise the whole \$60,000 to pay back to the city and PWA this summer."

He also appealed to his hearers to see to it that "our colored girls who have just graduated from high school be given chances at the pay jobs in connection with the pool." He charged that this is not being done.

Other speakers on the program included Dr. E. T. Fields, and a Howard High school senior, Eginosis Martin.

William H. Warren, president of the Men's Service club, presided.

Memphis, Tenn. Commercial Appeal
July 24, 1938

MAYOR ASKS WPA AID FOR NEGRO PLAYSPOT

Application To Be Filed For
South Memphis Project

A \$132,000 playground and swimming pool for negroes will be constructed in South Memphis, Mayor Overton announced yesterday, and an application for WPA funds for the project will be made immediately.

The playground will be a six-acre site somewhere east of Lauderdale and north of McLemore, the Mayor said. It will be modern with a lighted baseball diamond, swings, slides, sandpiles and grandstand. The pool will have dressing rooms attached.

This will be the second swimming pool for Memphis negroes. The other is at Washington Park.

Work on this project will begin immediately after funds are obtained so that it can be ready for the 1939 Summer.

Memphis, Tenn. Commercial Appeal
July 23, 1938

Negroes Rally

A city-county mass meeting of 3000 negroes of South Memphis was held at Lincoln Park last night in interest of a proposed playground and swimming pool for that section. Plans for the project, which would be constructed by the WPA, call for an expenditure of \$132,000. Rev. T. O. Fuller, Rev. H. B. Gibson, Rev. J. A. G. Grant, George W. Lee and J. E. Walker were speakers. Blair T. Hunt presided.

Richmond, Va. News-Leader
July 20, 1938

Finance Committee Favors Negro Recreation Plan

No Property Owners Protest Location of Project on Valentine Tract on Northside.

Given two public hearings without a single property owner appearing in opposition, the proposal to purchase twelve and one-half acres of the Valentine property, between old Chamberlayne Avenue and Brook Avenue for a Negro swimming pool and recreation center is on its way to Common Council with the endorsement of seven of the nine members of the Finance Committee.

The failure of opponents of the plan to appear, either before the sub-committee at the public hearing held last week or at the meeting of the full Finance Committee last night, is regarded by advocates of the project as indicating that it will receive the necessary fourteen votes when it comes before the Common Council on Aug. 1.

Alderman L. R. Brown, chairman of the sub-committee that recommended the Valentine tract after examining several other tracts, predicted the approval of the project by Common Council.

"Advocates and opponents of the site were invited to appear before the sub-committee last week and also before the Finance Committee last night, but not a single property owner voiced any objection at either meeting. In view of this I do not believe there will be more than three or four votes against the project when it comes before the Council."

Mr. Brown declared that a map prepared at his request by the Department of Public Works and laid before the Finance Committee in the executive session that followed last night's public hearing shows that the white residents nearest to the proposed recreation center and swimming pool live closer to Negro homes than they do to the proposed recreation tract. The white residences encroached on the Negro area, Mr. Brown said.

The public hearing was short. Half of the Council chamber was filled with Negroes interested in the project. Feeling that it had already heard from advocates of the sub-committee's recommendation, the committee limited the remarks of friends of the project.

Miss Claire McCarthy, director of the Community Recreation Association, was called on and introduced Mrs. James Richardson

Richmond, Va. News-Leader
July 23, 1938

Negro Recreation Center Objections Are Removed

Addition of 4½ Acres to Proposed Tract Pleases Lee Ward Delegation.

By the addition of four and one-half acres to the tract recommended for purchase as the site for a Negro recreation center and swimming pool the City Council Finance Committee has removed the objection of several members of the Lee Ward delegation and practically assured the approval of the project by City Council.

When the committee, on motion of Alderman L. R. Brown, reconsidered its previous recommendation last night and included 4½ acres that will place the swimming pool farther away from Chamberlayne Parkway, the plan won the approval of Alderman George B. Snead and Councilman E. Glenn Jordan, who previously opposed the location.

"I am glad that Mr. Brown has suggested the change as it removes all opposition by the Lee Ward delegation in the Council," Mr. Jordan declared.

The location has never been opposed by Councilman H. Bayliss Epps, of Lee Ward, who made the motion that resulted in the selection of the 12½-acre site.

The 4½ acres added last night lies on the south side of the tract between old Chamberlayne Avenue and Brook Road and brings the total area recommended for purchase by the city to seventeen acres. The paper will come before the Common Council for approval on Aug. 1.

The question of providing funds for the project now appears to be all that stands in the way of the proposal to give Richmond Negroes a recreation center that will include a baseball diamond, playground, grandstand, swimming pool, bathhouse and other facilities. If Council appropriates the necessary funds without delay it is possible the Negro population will have its own bathing facilities in time for use next summer.

If, however, the Council delays the appropriation until next spring construction cannot get under way in time for it to be completed and usable next summer and it will have to go over until 1940.

The plans of the Department of Public Works call for the expenditure of approximately \$100,000 in

the final completion of the project. Of this amount approximately \$65,000 will be spent on the swimming pool and bathhouse, Public Works Director Bowers said today.

For A Negro Park

From Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch

WHEN THE original proposal was made to City Council some months ago that Memorial Park be converted into a recreational center for Negroes, the Ledger-Dispatch marshaled a number of reasons why it felt the plan should be supported.

The proposal has been revived by Mayor Taylor, and Council has authorized the City Manager to make a study of it. The same reasons that were advanced in favor of it before exist now, and have grown stronger.

When the 1938 budget was being made up it was revealed that the golf course in Memorial Park was losing money. The operation of the Memorial Park facilities for the benefit of comparatively few has become a financial burden upon the city. The lack of proper recreational facilities has become an increasingly heavy burden upon Norfolk's colored population.

This burden would be considerably relieved if the Memorial Park area, with necessary improvements which would not be unduly costly, were converted into a park for use by Negroes.

When the public golf course was established in Memorial Park it met a genuine demand for such facilities. It was the first of the public golf courses. Since that time it has become largely outmoded by other facilities, including the city's golf course at Ocean View.

Memorial Park is almost ideally located for a colored recreational center. It is far less appropriately located for the purpose for which it is now supposed to be used. The city here has the finest sort of opportunity to make available, without a large outlay of money, facilities for recreation which have been too long denied to the colored people of this community.

And it is earnestly hoped that the City Manager will recommend, and Council will approve, a plan to that end. It would be no more than simple justice to that large element of the city's population which has waited patiently for this consideration.

Negro Recreation Center Plans Are Progressing, Says Bolton

Plans for speedy development of the new Negro recreation center on old Chamberlayne Avenue are going forward rapidly, according to James Bolton, chief of the City Bureau of Design and Surveys.

Apart from ball fields and other facilities, Mr. Bolton said that the swimming pool being designed will be adequate to stage 60-meter races. It will be 60 feet wide and 185 feet long.

Initial construction, Mr. Bolton declared, will consist of the installation of water and sewer lines to the 17-acre tract, now in the process of acquisition by the city through its Law Department.

Cost of the whole project has been set at \$137,300, of which the Public Works Administration has agreed to put up \$52,941. Council has appropriated \$84,300 as its portion of the cost, \$63,706 of that sum to be used in construction, the remainder to provide for payment of the property being acquired.

The Board of Aldermen has been called to meet in special session tonight to concur with the lower branch in formal acceptance of the PWA grant.

Mr. Bolton was confident that the play area will be ready for activities next summer.